



Friends of the Teton River (FTR) wants to thank Teton County, ID residents for testing their private well water for nitrates during our WaterWise event at the Teton High School. FTR wants to ensure that all residents understand that, if you live *outside* city limits and your water comes from a *private well*, **YOU** are responsible for testing, operation, and maintenance to ensure that your water is safe to drink.

High nitrate levels in groundwater greater than the federal drinking water standard can result from personal or commercial fertilizer use, leaking septic systems, or animal waste. If your well water test result is 10 mg/L or greater, we recommend that you:

- Do not give water to infants under 6 months of age.
- Do not boil water, as this will increase nitrate concentration
- Have your well inspected by a licensed contractor
- Follow up with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality:

900 North Skyline Drive, Suite B, Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Flint Hall, P.G., Environmental Scientist, (208) 528-2650, flint.hall@deq.idaho.gov

Andy Olson, Water Quality Analyst, (208) 528-2611, andy.olson@deq.idaho.gov

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare recommends that all Idaho private well owners test for nitrates and bacteria **annually** and for arsenic, uranium, and fluoride once every 3-5 years. It is recommended that you test your water *IMMEDIATELY* if:

- You notice a change in color, smell, or taste of your water
- Your neighbors have found contaminants in their water
- There has been flooding near your well
- You are concerned about water quality and are unsure if your water is safe

Certified Laboratory Tests

If you are interested in testing your private well water for contaminants other than nitrate, or you want more accurate results, there are several certified drinking water laboratories in the region that you can contact and send a water sample to for analysis.

IAS Envirochem

- 3314 Pole Line Road, Pocatello, ID, 83201
- (208) 237-3300
- iasec3308@iasenvirochem.com
- www.iasenvirochem.com
- *Tests for: Arsenic, Sodium, Nitrate, Nitrite, Copper/Lead, Sulfates, Fluoride, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Uranium, Total coliform, E. coli and more*

Teton Microbiology Laboratory, Inc.

- 258 North Water Ave., Suite 2, Idaho Falls, ID, 83402
- (208) 529-0077
- tetonmicrolab@gmail.com
- www.tetonmicrobiology.com
- *Tests for: Total coliform, E. coli*

Teton County, WY Public Health Water Lab

- 40 East Pearl Street, PO Box 937, Jackson, WY, 83001
- (307) 732-8463
- <http://www.tetonwyo.org/ph/topics/water-lab/252409/>
- *Tests for: Total coliform, E. coli*

This project was undertaken in connection with the settlement of an enforcement action taken by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality for alleged violations of the requirements of the Hazardous Waste Management Act.